

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, comprising:

copolymerizing ethylene and vinyl acetate in a methanol solution to form an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having an ethylene content of at least 20 mol % but not more than 70 mol %,

saponifying the copolymer in a methanol solution,

adding water to the methanol solution containing the saponified copolymer to prepare a mixture solution,

removing insoluble materials from the mixture solution, and

obtaining the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer from the mixture solution from which the insoluble materials have been removed.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the mixture solution is an aqueous methanol solution with a ratio of methanol to water in the range of 5 : 5 to 9 : 1 by weight.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer obtained has a saponification degree of at least 95 mol %.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the insoluble materials are removed from the mixture solution in which the concentration of the copolymer saponified is between 30 wt % and 60 wt %.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the insoluble materials are removed from the mixture solution at a temperature between 55 °C and 80 °C.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the insoluble materials are removed by a filter or a centrifugal separator.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the insoluble materials are removed using at least one solid-liquid separation method selected from filtration with a plate filter, filtration with a bucket filter, filtration with a candle filter or separation with a centrifugal separator.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the insoluble materials are removed by a candle filter.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the saponification is neutralized with acetic acid prior to the addition of water.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, further comprising molding the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer into a form by melt-molding.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, further comprising mixing the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer with a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, further comprising forming the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer into a laminate by a method selected from coextrusion, coextrusion coating or solution coating.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, comprising:

copolymerizing ethylene and vinyl acetate in a methanol solution to form an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having an ethylene content of at least 20 mol % but not more than 70 mol %,

saponifying the copolymer in a methanol solution,

adding water to the methanol solution containing the copolymer saponified to prepare a mixture solution,

removing insoluble materials from the mixture solution, and

obtaining the copolymer saponified from the mixture solution from which the insoluble materials have been removed, and

wherein the insoluble materials are removed from the mixture solution in which the ratio of methanol to water is in the range of 5 : 5 to 9 : 1 by weight, and wherein the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer obtained has a saponification degree of at least 95 mol %.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21, wherein the insoluble materials are removed by a filter or a centrifugal separator.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21, wherein the insoluble materials are removed using at least one solid-liquid separation method selected from filtration with a plate filter, filtration with a bucket filter, filtration with a candle filter or separation with a centrifugal separator.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21, wherein the insoluble materials are removed by a candle filter.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21, wherein the saponification is neutralized with acetic acid prior to the addition of water.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21, further comprising molding the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer into a form by melt-molding.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21, further comprising mixing the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer with a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The of method Claim 21, further comprising forming the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer into a laminate by a method selected from coextrusion, coextrusion coating or solution coating.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 13 has been canceled.

Claims 8-12 and 14-28 are now pending in the application.¹

¹ Applicants note that the Office Action Summary page for the Office Action lists Claims "7-28" as the then-pending claims. The correct pending claims were Claims 8-28. The Examiner is respectfully requested to correct the record.